

28. A device according to claim 27, wherein said saw blade is selected from the group consisting of a reciprocating saw blade and a band saw blade.

29. A device according to claim 26, wherein the speed of said blade is adjustable.

30. A device according to claim 29, wherein said speed of said blade is adjustable between 40 and 190 metres per minute.

31. A device according to claim 26, wherein the speed of said feeder means is adjustable.

32. A device according to claim 31, wherein said speed of said feeder means is adjustable between 0 and 1 metre per minute.

33. A device according to claim 26, wherein said separation unit comprises a support means to support an underside of said elongate member.

34. A device according to claim 26, wherein said separation unit comprises means to constrain lateral movement of said elongate member passing therethrough.

35. A device according to claim 34, wherein said means to constrain lateral movement of said elongate member comprises at least one pair of horizontally spaced apart rollers, said rollers being rotatable about a substantially vertical axis.

36. A device according to claim 35, wherein each roller of a pair is mounted so that the distance therebetween may be adjusted.

37. A device according to claim 26, wherein said separation unit comprises a roller arranged to exert a downward pressure on a part of an elongate member being cut.

38. A device according to claim 26, wherein upstream of said separation unit said support means is provided with alignment means to align a substantially longitudinal axis of an elongate member with said cutter of the separation unit.

39. A device according to claim 38, wherein said alignment means comprises at least two guides each mounted so as to be movable laterally to said support means.

40. A device according to claim 26, wherein said support means comprises at least one support table located upstream of said separation unit and at least one support table located downstream of said separation unit.

41. A device according to claim 40, wherein at least one table mounted downstream of said separation unit is a receiving table and is so dimensioned as to enable said table to receive and support separated sections issuing from said separation unit.

42. A device according to claim 41, wherein said receiving table comprises at least one pair of support members, each member being mounted on said table so as to be movable horizontally and vertically so as to engage with and support a part of said separated elongate member.

43. A device according to claim 41, wherein said receiving table further comprises means for moving a section resting thereon laterally across said table.

44. A device according to claim 43, wherein said means for moving comprises at least one conveyor, each conveyor being provided with at least one upstanding member protruding above a surface of the table so as to engage with a section of said upstanding member resting on said table.

45. A device according to claim 40, wherein at least one of said tables comprises a plurality of rollers.

46. A device according to claim 45, wherein said rollers of at least one table are driven.

47. A device according to claim 40, wherein at least one table located upstream of said separation unit comprises said feeder means.

48. A process for separating elongate members using a cold separation device for separating an

09380351.083159

A
sub
B37

elongate member along a substantially longitudinal axis thereof, said device comprising a separation unit having a cutter, support means extending upstream and downstream of said separation unit to support said elongate member, and a feeder means to feed said elongate member towards and through said separation unit, wherein said feeder means feeds said elongate member and said support means extends in a direction substantially parallel to said substantially longitudinal axis of said elongate member, said process comprising the steps of:

placing an elongate member on said support means of said device;

aligning a substantially longitudinal axis of said elongate member with said cutter of said separation unit;

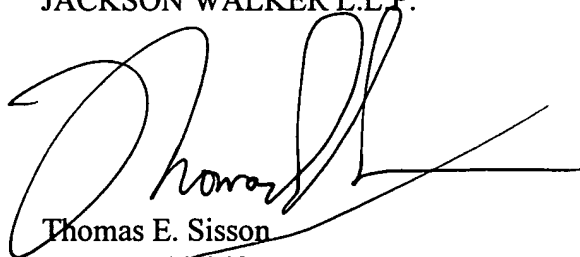
feeding said elongate member through said separation unit; and

supporting resulting separated sections.

49. A process according to claim 48, further comprising the steps of constraining lateral movement of said elongate member in said separation unit.

50. A process according to claim 48, further comprising the step of supporting said separated sections issuing from said separation unit.

Respectfully submitted,
JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.



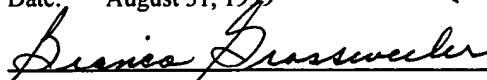
Thomas E. Sisson
Reg. No. 29,348
112 E. Pecan Street, Suite 2100
San Antonio, Texas 78205
(210) 978-7790
Attorneys for Applicant

I

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee (37 CFR 1.10), Mailing Label No. EL423208702US, addressed to Box PCT, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: August 31, 1999


Bianca Grossweiler

ESTD - TEE03E50